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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Industrial Division, ORR
ATT : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
FROM : Chief, Aircraft Branch, D/I

DATE: 1 May 1959

SUBJECT: Proposed Exchanges with the USSR, 1960-1961.

1. Tooling for Production of Large Airframes

A. Length of tour from 2 to 3 weeks.

B. Exchange would include visits to production sites involved in manufacture of large aircraft. Much of the tooling techniques would apply equally to the production of long range missiles. For example in the U.S. the jigs for the Thor IRBM at Douglas Aircraft are as big and massive as those from the DC-8 jet airliner.

2. Fabrication of High Temperature Materials for Aircraft Construction.

A. Length of tour from 2 to 3 weeks.

B. Exchange would include observing welding and forming of titanium and other high temperature materials. High temperature materials are used in super-sonic aircraft and in space weapons. Techniques for fabrication would apply to broad categories of super-sonic vehicles.

3. Special Purpose Machine Tools Used in the Manufacture of Aircraft.

A. Length of tour from 2 to 3 weeks.

B. Exchange would include observing operation of large spar mills, skin mills and stretch presses. In the US such equipment is used in all aircraft plants concerned with producing large aircraft. Although there is not much evidence which suggests that the Soviets are using such equipment it is believed that they must use modern techniques in order to produce high performance aircraft. If they are not their aircraft may be considerably heavier than has been estimated, which would effect performance especially the range.

4. All of the suggested changes probably would result in some technological gain to the USSR, but the intelligence gain to the US would more than off-set this. It is believed that the intelligence collected would enable the US to better assess Soviet capabilities to produce long-range weapon carrying vehicles.

5. It is expected that the US delegations would come from industry for the most part, with some lessor representation from technical colleges and government agencies.

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